

Application No. 09/934310
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Amendment
Attorney Docket No. S63.2N-8429-US04

In The Specification:

On page 1, please amend the paragraph beginning on line 2 in accordance with the following paragraph:

B1
This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application number 09/574,077, filed on May 18, 2000, which is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application number 08/845,734, filed on April 25, 1997, now abandoned, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application number 08/824,142, filed March 25, 1997, now U.S. Patent number 6,241,760 and which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application number 08/824,866, filed March 26, 1997, now U.S. Patent number 5,954,743 and which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application number 08/824,865, filed March 26, 1997, now U.S. Patent number 6,152,957 and which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application number 08/845,657, filed April 25, 1997, now U.S. Patent number 5,922,021, which claims the benefit of Provisional Patent Application No. 60/017,484 filed April 26, 1996, all of which are incorporated herein by reference. This application claims the benefit of Provisional Patent Application No. 60/017,484 filed April 26, 1996, the disclosure of which is incorporated by reference.

On page 7, beginning at line 19, please amend the specification in accordance with the following paragraphs:

Fig. 6A is a scale drawing of an embodiment of the stent of the present invention with reinforcement expansion columns;

B2
Fig. 6A is an enlarged portion of the drawing of Fig. 6;

Fig. 6B is a perspective view of the embodiment of Figure 6A;

Please amend the Abstract in accordance with the following:

~~A stent in a non-expanded state has a first and second expansion column, each consisting of a plurality of expansion strut pairs. An expansion strut pair includes a first expansion strut, a second expansion strut and a joining strut that couples the first and second expansion struts at~~

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~~one end. Expansion strut pairs include expansion strut pair first and second corners formed where the joining strut couples the first and second expansion struts. A connecting strut column, formed of a plurality of connecting struts couples the first and second expansion columns. Connecting struts include a proximal section, a distal section and an intermediate section. The proximal section is coupled to the corner of an expansion strut pair of the first expansion column, and the distal section is coupled to the joining strut of an expansion strut pair of the second expansion column intermediate the expansion strut pair first corner and the expansion strut pair second corner.~~

B3 A stent has a first end, an opposing second end, a longitudinal length, and is comprised of a plurality of annular elements. Each annular element may have a compressed state and an expanded state. At least a portion of the stent in the expanded state may have a tapered configuration, and portions of the stent may have differing degrees of flexibility.